

tools necessary to improve the competitive position of the U.S. textile and apparel industry.

In behalf of the textile and apparel workers in West Virginia, and the nation, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Customs Enforcement and Market Access Act. I thank Senator FORD for his leadership in introducing the bill.

#### FAMILY PEACE DAY

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the first-annual Family Peace Day in Chicago, IL.

The goal of Family Peace Day is to focus attention on domestic abuse issues, how to combat domestic violence and build healthy families, to address legal issues and to inform Illinois citizens of the resources available to combat domestic violence.

Family Peace Day is a joint project of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow of the Illinois Supreme Court, Chief Judge Donald O'Connell of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and Cook County Board President John H. Stroger, Jr., are serving as honorary cochairmen. Additional supporters include Attorney General James Ryan, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Domestic Violence Network, Chicago Public Schools, Chief Judge Donald O'Connell's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine, the Department of Children and Family Services, Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council, and many legal, judicial, health care, social service and non-profit organizations, including the American Medical Association, the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Chicago Police Department, the Council for the Jewish Elderly, the John Marshall Law School, the Mujeres Latinas En Accion, and the Peace Museum. I commend these individuals and organizations for working together to help victims of domestic abuse and to teach individuals how to combat domestic violence and build healthy families.

The Family Peace Day activities will begin with a press conference kickoff rally and award presentation to Chicago public school student winners of poetry, prose, and poster contests depicting their vision of a healthy family. There will be an Expo consisting of booths providing the public free legal and medical advice and counseling or referrals from social service providers, health care providers, and attorneys practicing family law. At noon there will be a luncheon awards ceremony at the Palmer House Hilton, sponsored by the Circuit Court of Cook County, to honor those who have made significant contributions to the administration of justice in the areas of domestic violence and abuse.

There can be no more important goal than healthy, safe, and strong families.

I am proud that Chicago is taking the lead in holding the first Family Peace Day and I look forward to communities around the country joining in with their own Family Peace Day activities.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order, morning business is closed.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to consideration of S. 672, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 672) making supplemental appropriations and rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Alaska.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to the appropriations staff as listed on the request that I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The list is as follows:

Majority clerks: Becky Davies, Jim Morhard, Mary Beth Nethercutt, Alex Flint, Robin Cleveland, Bruce Evans, Craig Higgins, Christine Ciccone, Sid Ashworth, Wally Burnett, Tammy Perrin, and Jon Kamarck.

Also, Lisa Sutherland, Dona Pate, Susan Hogan, Jay Kimmitt, Carrie Apostolou, Martha Poindexter, Kevin Linsky, and Paddy Linc.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this bill covers several subcommittees. It is just easier to do it that way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, it is my privilege to present to the Senate S. 672, which provides emergency supplemental appropriations for numerous natural disasters and defense overseas contingencies. This is my first opportunity to come before the Senate as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and I am very proud that this first bill from our committee focuses on assisting our fellow citizens in need. I am humbled to be here with my good friend from West Virginia, the distinguished former majority leader, minority leader, chairman of our Appropriations Committee, and now the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. I can think of no one I have studied under longer than Senator BYRD. It is a privilege to be here to present this bill with him today.

Our committee reported this bill on Wednesday, and the report has been available since last Thursday for Members. Many of our colleagues will comment later on the terrible events which precipitated this disaster relief bill.

They represent the States involved, and I will leave it to them to comment on the specific situations in their own States.

Our committee worked to target spending in this bill to the agencies and accounts that are responding to these crises now. The \$5.5 billion provided for emergency relief exceeds the President's request by \$2.5 billion. Some of these funds will not be spent this fiscal year. We sought to use the best estimates we could, but in many cases it will be weeks or months until a final assessment of damages can be made in these disaster areas.

As has been widely reported, there are some controversial measures in this bill. I do thank all my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their cooperation during the markup last week. One clear conclusion we reached was that not all the funds in this bill will be directed to the most recent disasters. We have witnessed a steady increase in the Presidential disaster recommendations, which have radically increased disaster relief costs. In addition, the President has waived the matching requirement on many of the programs involved, adding to the Federal costs for these disasters. We cannot and will not try to solve this problem on this bill, but it is something I believe must be addressed by Congress. There ought to be a clear understanding and a clear yardstick for disasters, regardless of the area involved.

All new spending in this bill is offset by corresponding rescissions or budget authority or canceling spending authority. This is sort of complicated. For budget scoring purposes, the disaster-related spending will be treated as an emergency. Those outlays will not count against this year's budget limits.

Part of this difference relates to how CBO scores appropriations bills. The Congressional Budget Office has a unique approach. When we appropriated funds for military personnel in September, the Congressional Budget Office scored those outlays—the money would actually be spent under the authorizations that were previously given by Congress—they were scored at 98 percent. Yet, when we rescind those same funds in this bill, the Congressional Budget Office credits the committee with only 25 percent of the outlays as savings to offset the money spent. It is the same dollar, but we only get a portion of the credit. The moneys have already been spent; that is the problem. The bias of the CBO process makes offsetting outlays a daunting task this late in the fiscal year.

Our committee did not recommend general cuts against agencies to offset these disaster funds, and I urged Members not to propose reductions against the operating accounts of agencies. The disaster relief funds proposed in the bill are not targeted or earmarked for any region of the country. Again, I ask our colleagues to follow the suggestions the Appropriations Committee